

**DATE:** March 3, 2008

**TO:** Region Engineers  
Region Delivery Engineers  
TSC Managers  
Resident/Project Engineers  
Region Construction Engineers

**FROM:** Larry E. Tibbits  
Chief Operations Officer

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Engineer of Delivery

**SUBJECT:** Bureau of Highway Instructional Memorandum 2008-05  
Bridge Weight Restrictions

This document clarifies the procedures for implementing weight restrictions based on a bridge load rating analysis or design.

### **Overview**

Bridge inspections, live load distribution adjustments, bridge code updates, construction sequencing, and adding overlays may result in a load rating or design analysis being performed. The analysis may result in a recommendation for weight restrictions pending the repair or replacement of the bridge. This recommendation may require that MDOT restrict or prohibit overweight permits, restrict legal loads (posting), or close the bridge. The actions to follow the recommendation include notification to the Michigan State Police's Traffic Safety Division and the Real Estate Division's Transport Permit Unit. Additionally, when the bridge carries local traffic, local agencies must be notified.

### **Posting/Overweight Restrictions (Pending Repair or Replacement)**

The Construction and Technology Division's Bridge Management Unit will consider whether the bridge requires posting and/or restriction of overweight permit loads pending the repair or replacement of the bridge. This consideration will include the hardship of such posting or restriction. There are two conditions/actions:

1. If the bridge requires posting, the engineer of delivery will notify the region engineer, who will request the appropriate TSC manager to use the following process:
  - A. Submit a Construction Restriction Bulletin Request (Form 2464) to MDOT's Transport Permit Unit at the following email address: [MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov).
  - B. Send a copy of the Construction Restriction Bulletin Request to the Michigan State Police – Traffic Safety Division area supervisor, and appropriate region staff.
  - C. Initiate the placement of the load posting sign. Once the sign is installed, submit a photograph of the bridge and the load posting sign to the Construction and Technology Division's Bridge Management Unit.
  - D. Send notification to the Real Estate Division's Transport Permit Unit, who will use the information to update the Web version of the Truck Operators' Map as soon as possible. They will also include the information in the next edition of the printed version.
2. If the bridge does not require posting, the Construction and Technology Division's Bridge Management Unit will determine whether overweight "permit" vehicles should be prohibited on the bridge. If this is the case, the unit will inform the Transport Permit Unit and region bridge engineer, who will request that the appropriate TSC manager use the following process:
  - A. Submit a Construction Restriction Bulletin Request (Form 2464) to MDOT's Transport Permit Unit at the following email address: [MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov).
  - B. Send a copy of the Construction Restriction Bulletin Request to the Michigan State Police – Traffic Safety Division area supervisor.

If overweight permit vehicles are not prohibited on the bridge, the Construction and Technology Division's Bridge Management Unit will determine whether the overload classification of the bridge must be reduced. If this is the case, the unit will inform the Transport Permit Unit.

Once the bridge is repaired or replaced, the processes shown above are reversed by the applicable people to remove the posting and overweight restrictions. Send a picture of the repaired or replaced bridge to the Construction and Technology Division's Bridge Management Unit.

### **Trunkline Bridges with Local Traffic**

The appropriate TSC manager will share the Bridge Management Unit's recommendation for MDOT-owned bridges carrying local traffic with the local agency when it is available. The local agency will post the bridge and/or restrict the bridge from overweight vehicles.

**Part-width Bridge Construction**

Overweight permit loads shall not be allowed on a structure being constructed part-width. When a bridge project includes part-width construction, the bridge design engineer will coordinate with the delivery engineer to process a Construction Restriction Bulletin Request (Form 2464) prior to letting the project. The delivery engineer will send a copy of the form to MDOT's Transport Permit Unit at the following e-mail address: [MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-OSOW-Restrictions@michigan.gov), the Michigan State Police – Traffic Safety Division area supervisor, and local agencies as applicable.

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Chief Operations Officer

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Engineer of Delivery

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